

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes** of the special meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Services Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Tuesday, 15th July 2014 at 10 am.

**Present:**

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) C Leyshon – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors:**

(Mrs) J Bunnage	(Mrs) A Calvert	J Elliott	M Griffiths
P Jarman	R Lewis	B Morgan	G Smith
B Stephens	L G Walker		

**Co-opted Members:-**

Mr J Horton – Parent Governor  
Mrs C Jones – National Union of Teachers & Teachers panel  
Mr M Cleverley – NASUWT and Teachers Panel

**Members making the Call in:-**

County Borough Councillors:  
M Powell  
K Morgan  
P Wasley

**Cabinet Members:-**

(Mrs) E Hanagan

**In attendance as Observers**

S Bradwick

**Officers in Attendance:**

Mr C Bradshaw – Director of Education & Lifelong Learning  
Mr P J Lucas – Director of Legal and Democratic Services  
Ms S Walker – Head of Achievement, Primary.  
Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Ms E Coates – Scrutiny Support Officer

**14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M Adams, A L Davies MBE, S Evans Fear, (Mrs) S Jones, G Thomas and C Williams. Apologies for absence were also received from the following co-opted members: Mr J Fish, Mrs S Sevany, Mr C Jones and Mr D Price.

**15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

## **16. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Committee and for the benefit of those members of the public in attendance the Chairman called on the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to explain the Call-in procedure.

The Director explained the process and purpose of the Call-in. He outlined the composition of the Committee which included co-opted members and explained that those Members who had instigated the call-in were also in attendance to outline their reasons for calling the Cabinet decision in. He also pointed out that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning and the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning were also in attendance to answer any questions of the Committee.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that before commencing the debate it was important to agree the procedure to be adopted and he drew Members' attention to pages 1 and 2 of the report which outlined the recommended procedure to be followed and the issues to be taken into account in considering the decision taken by Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 in relation to Coedpenmaen Primary School – Propose intervention into the governance arrangements of the school.

Members were advised of the information before them, namely,

- Appendix A – Copy of the report presented to Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014.
- Appendix B – The Decision Notice of Cabinet;
- Appendix C – Extract from the Council's Constitution of Scrutiny Procedure Rules re: Call-In.
- Appendix D - Copy of prescribed Call-In form

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services highlighted to the Committee the changes to the Call In provisions following the Council's Annual General meeting in May 2014, to enable any 3 non Executive members (from either (i) at least 2 political groups or (ii) in the case of an unallocated member(s) – that unallocated member(s) and a member(s) from a political group) to call in a decision of the Cabinet. The Director clarified that the three members who had instigated the call in were not members of the Committee. The Director, Legal & Democratic Services continued by outlining the reasons given by the three Members in requesting the Call in, at Appendix D and which were reproduced for ease of reference at paragraph 2.7 of his report. He referred to paragraph 2.8 of the report which proposed that one of the three Members be given the right to make a final address to the Committee membership immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal and also explained that if the proposal to have the matter referred back to Cabinet was unsuccessful, then the Cabinet decision would take effect from the date of the meeting ie 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**RESOLVED** –To adopt the procedure as set out at paragraphs 2.7 to 2.8 of the report

17. **CALL-IN – COEDPENMAEN PRIMARY SCHOOL- PROPOSED INTERVENTION INTO THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SCHOOL.**

The three Members who had called-in the decision namely County Borough Councillors M Powell, K Morgan and P Wasley thanked the Committee for their time and proceeded to outline their reasons for the Call-in.

Following the address by the three Members the Chairman called on the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning to comment on the issues raised.

Having heard the arguments from those Members who had made the Call in and the responses from the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning the Chairman invited the Committee to ask any questions for clarification purposes only to the Director and Cabinet Member before opening the debate.

Following the Committees debate of the issue, the Chairman invited County Borough Councillor M Powell to sum up the argument in favour of referring the Cabinet decision in relation to the Coedpenmaen Primary School – proposed intervention into the governance arrangements of the schools to the Cabinet for re-consideration.

Following consideration of the issues and in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** that the matter not be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration and that the decision taken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 take effect as from the date of this meeting i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

C Leyshon  
Chairman

The meeting closed at 11.20 am.

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